[English]

Indian Exports to Afghanistan

1636. SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the route through which the Indian goods are exported to Afghanistan;

(b) whether the recent changes in the erstwhile USSR has hit the above supply route to Afghanistan; and

(c) if so, how the Government propose to hold on to its links with Afghanistan in the changed international conditions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Routs for export of Indian goods to Afghanistan are:-

(i) By air: Delhi-Kabul and Amritsar-Kabul.

(ii) Via the port of Karachi in Pakistan.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Funds to Spices Board

1637. SHRI P.C. THOMAS: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the amount sanctioned to the Spices Board to safeguard and develop pepper cultivation during 1991-92;

(b) whether the amount sanctioned is sufficient to cover the activities of the Board and is in proportion to the export earnings from the papper; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c). Responsibility for development of production in respect of all spices except cardamom is with Ministry of Agriculture and State Governments and Spices Board has only a supplementary role. During 1991-92 following schemes were sanctioned by the Spices Board for development of pepper cultivation:

(i) Production of planting materials
-
Rs. 12.75 lakhs.

(ii) Supply of 400 Rocker Sprayers to pepper
farmers for taking up plant protection operation
in quick wilt affected area
-
Rs. 8.40 lakhs.

Uncertainty to Indian Exports

1638. SHRI PARASRAM BHARDWAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether with the dissolution of USSR and dismantling socialism in the East Europe, about one-fifth of India's exports are subject to considerable uncertainty;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(c) the steps taken by the Government to safeguard the interests of the Indian businessmen affected by these developments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c). The political and economic changes in East Europe and the erstwhile Soviet Union had an adverse impact on Indian exports. In view of this the Government is taking a number of steps to